



From the Director of Victim Services

We are just a few days away from the 40th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRRW), April 18–24, 2021. This week is a time to renew our commitment to serving all victims of crime, to acknowledge the achievements in victim services and allied professions, to honor those who have gone above and beyond in their service to others, and to remember crime victims and survivors. This year's theme—**Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities**—emphasizes the importance of leveraging community support to help victims of crime.

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The Tennessee Board of Parole (TBOP), Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC), and the Tennessee Rehabilitative Initiative in Correction (TRICOR) will showcase a series of videos highlighting victim coordinators and victim services agencies across the state. The videos will begin with an introduction from each department's leaders followed by victim coordinator/agencies throughout the state. The series will end with a conclusion video by the National Crime Victims' Rights Week committee members.

Be sure to check out all of the above mentioned agencies websites and social media pages to view the video series!

Tamika Dobbins



April 2021

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

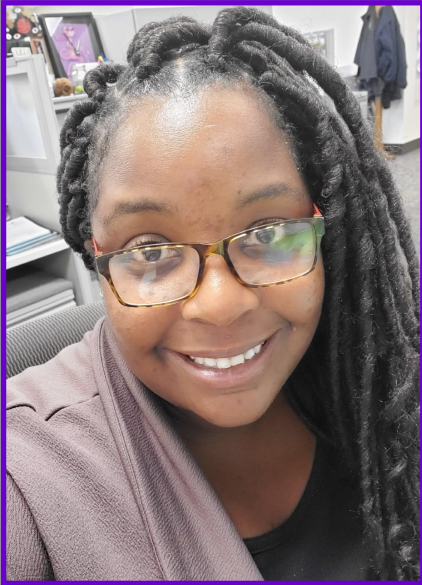
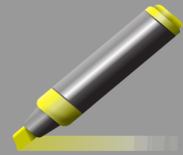
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

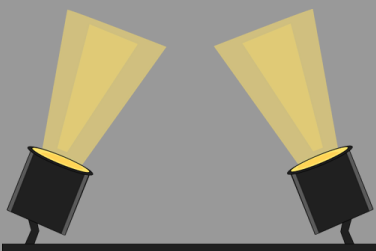
Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet



Jaleesa Gaston is a Tennessee native born and raised in Sumner County. She has been in law enforcement for a little over 9 years now and have loved every moment. Currently she works as a Probation Officer and Victim Services Coordinator in District 81 (Gallatin). Victim Services has given me the ability to do more for the community I not only serve but live in. My faith and family are a big part of who I've become today and how I treat others. I believe that a well-balanced life and traveling is the key to happiness and success.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and, this year, we're talking about things you need in every relationship: consent and boundaries. Consent is an affirmative agreement between participants to engage in physical or sexual activity. In simpler words, it means you recognize and respect one another's boundaries and have confirmation that a partner is excited and happy about whatever you're doing.

Consent doesn't only apply to sexual activity. It's important to get consent for any activity that may interact with another person's boundaries.

At its core, consent is about communicating, understanding, and respecting another person's boundaries, and vice versa.

5 rules for obtaining, confirming, and honoring consent:

Rule 1: Establish Boundaries-Boundaries are your personal rules. They help you articulate the behaviors that make you feel safe and respected, not just in terms of sexual relationships, but in all sorts of relationships.

Rule 2: Communicate Comfort Zones - Healthy relationships are built on a foundation of respect and communication. Your partner won't necessarily know your boundaries if you don't communicate them, and vice versa.

Rule 3: Ask Every Time - It's important to discuss boundaries and expectations with your partner prior to engaging in any sexual behavior. If you're unsure about another person's boundaries, ask. Be clear and direct with your questions. It's necessary and it should happen every time.

Rule 4: Check In Regularly-The best way to ensure that all parties are comfortable with any sexual activity is to talk about it, check in periodically, and make sure everyone involved consents before escalating or changing activities. Boundaries can change over time as you grow and experience new things. So what was okay recently, may not be okay today or tomorrow.

Rule 5: Respect Each Other- Respect is about honoring one another's boundaries.

Denim Day is April 28, 2021! Denim Day is a campaign on a Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent.

Help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Call 800.656.HOPE (4673) to be connected with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area.



TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls	March	Notifications Mailed	March
Phone calls Received/Returned	132	Registrations/Voice	214
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	157	Movement	132
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	9	Advance Release	966
Referrals	21	Final Release *	26
Release/Parole Inquiry	59	Death	10
Other	27	Other	10

Announcements



The Criminal Injuries Compensation Program is offering training to those who advocate on behalf of victims in Tennessee. The training, which will provide participating advocates necessary resources and information to assist crime victims in utilizing the program, will be virtual and there are three opportunities to participate.

Individuals may participate through WebEx with a computer internet connection or by phone. The webinar will be one hour in length.

Who should attend: Victim advocates who directly serve victims of crime on a daily basis.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Benefits and guidelines of the program
- Application process
- Appeal process
- Procedures regarding the appropriate documentation of a claim application

Attendance certificates will be provided to those attendees who sign in to WebEx via email and complete the session.

An email with the link to join the webinar will be sent in advance of the training to the address you provide.

If you have any questions, you may reach us at Criminal.Injury@tn.gov. You can also find additional resources for victim advocates at [Criminal Injuries Compensation](#).

Please register as soon as possible for one of the webinar sessions below.

TUESDAY

April 20, 2021

Webinar via WebEx

Workshop: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., CT

THURSDAY

May 20, 2021

Webinar via WebEx

Workshop: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., CT

WEDNESDAY

June 16, 2021

Webinar via WebEx

Workshop: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., CT



National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 18–24, 2021

SUPPORT VICTIMS. BUILD TRUST. ENGAGE COMMUNITIES.

*You, your family, and friends are invited to the
Davidson County 2021 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony*

Sunday, April 18, 2021
Fifty Forward
174 Rains Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Program will begin at 2:00 PM

You are invited to join us in honoring and remembering those whose lives have been impacted by violent crime. Whether you are a survivor, care about a survivor, work in the field, or just want to show your support, your presence is welcomed.

Though our event will be in-person, due to the continued concerns around COVID-19, we have set parameters in place based on CDC guidelines to protect everyone's safety.

DRIVE IN AND SIT IN OR BY YOUR CAR: Once in the lot, our parking attendants will be available to guide you to your spot. We ask that you bring chairs in the event weather permits people to sit by their cars. *Additionally, you are invited to decorate your car with inspirational sayings or other encouraging and meaningful messages. If your life has been impacted by homicide, please feel free to honor your loved one.*

VIRTUAL OPTION: We invite anyone who would prefer a virtual program to join us on facebook.com/remember.crime.survivors to view the program.

PLEASE VISIT our Facebook page (facebook.com/remember.crime.survivors), the week leading up to Crime Victims' Rights Week and during Crime Victims' Rights Week to see survivors share their thoughts about their victimization.

Though we are unable to display our homicide boards this year, if you would like your loved one included in the future, please submit a photo of him/her by sending a 5 x 7 photo with your loved one's name, DOB, and DOD to: Mackenzie Britt, District Attorney's Office, 222 2nd Ave North, Washington Square Building, Suite 500, Nashville, TN 37201. We apologize, but we will be unable to return pictures.

For additional information:

Valerie Craig at (615) 390-5202 or valerie.craig@tnvoicesforvictims.org

Mackenzie Britt at (615) 862-5500 ext. 70036 or Amy Griffith at (615) 862-7773

ADA accommodations contact James Gray @ 862-8400.



**National Crime Victims'
Rights Week**

**April 18–24,
2021**

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS EVENT

District Attorney General James B. Dunn invites you to participate in honoring and remembering victims of violent crime. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic we will not be able to have our normal in person ceremony. This year we will be creating a photo banner to display in the memory garden. We invite you to submit a high-resolution photo of you or your loved one with the name(s) as you prefer it listed. Please email your photo to kdhudson@tndagc.org General Dunn would like for you to come to the Cocke County Courthouse lawn the week of April 18-24, 2021 to view the photo banner and take a moment to reminisce at the victim's tree and memory garden. When you visit the memory garden, we encourage you to take a photo and submit it to our Facebook group. If you are not a member of that group, please submit your name as it is listed on Facebook and one of the administrators will add you to the private group. We look forward to the day when we will be able to gather in person to honor all victims of violent crime. It is very important that all photos be submitted to our office on or before April 1, 2021. If you have any questions or need assistance submitting a photo, please contact Kim Hudson at (423) 623-1285.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 7, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT

VLADIMIR ENLOW, MTS

615-292-7027

VLADIMIR.ENLOW@YHTP.ORG

YHTP VIRTUAL CRIME SURVIVORS ROUNDTABLE, SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Victims' Rights Virtual Summit Part of 2021 National Crime Victims' Rights Week

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – You Have the Power (YHTP) will host "Our Turn to Talk: Crime Survivors Roundtable" on Saturday, April 24 from 12:00-1:30 PM Central as part of this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

This virtual statewide victim's rights summit is open to the public and will discuss hurdles faced by people struggling with the aftermath of a crime, either recent or in the distant past. Panelists and participants will discuss how crime affects victims and the logistical and social-emotional resources victims need from the police, hospitals, service providers, and the media. YHTP will also share resources available for victims of crime, both from YHTP and from partner agencies.

Our moderator for this event is Tony Gonzalez, a news editor for 90.3 WPLN News. He's invested a decade into covering the news and telling empathetic stories across Middle Tennessee, both with The Tennessean and WPLN. His work often intersects with that of You Have The Power. He has closely covered vulnerable populations, child well-being, and sexual assault.

Panelists include:

Sharon Travis is a community outreach and prevention specialist and co-facilitator of YHTP's Victim Impact Curriculum, currently in practice at the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center.

Elder Oliver T. Williams is the senior pastor of the Grace Church Of God In Christ. He is also the founder of the Hope Center at Grace, which provides domestic violence intervention, fatherhood programs, and counseling services to the people of north Memphis.

Alexandra Porto is the Executive Director of Fayette Cares, celebrating 21 years with the organization where she works to empower those in need with solutions to end homelessness, break the cycle of domestic violence, and create stability and self-sufficiency from crisis.

Jared Effler is the District Attorney General for Tennessee's 8th Judicial District, serving Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union Counties. He also chairs the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference Victim/Witness Steering Committee.

Avis Littleton is a survivor of child sexual abuse and domestic violence and has been involved in women/children's ministries for 20 years. As a Vanderbilt Divinity School graduate, Avis works to explore the hidden matters that work to dismantle the family unit.

Sign up for this event is available at tinyurl.com/OurTurnToTalk. Guests are welcome to submit questions to webinars@yhtp.org for advance consideration by panelists.

"Our Turn to Talk" is funded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators

(NAVAA) through a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, to promote community awareness of crime victims' rights and services.

Founded in 1993 by former First Lady of Tennessee Andrea Conte, You Have the Power began bringing together those touched by violent crime. YHTP focuses on education, prevention, and policy through the lens of survivors. It produces documentaries and resource guides on contemporary issues on crime prevention, such as child sexual abuse and human trafficking; presents community safety training sessions for caregivers, educators, and the public. They developed and implemented a victim impact curriculum for adults in prison and another for at-risk youth delivered through community groups.

**SUPPORT
VICTIMS.
BUILD
TRUST.
ENGAGE
COMMUNITIES.**

**National Crime Victims'
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**April 18–24,
2021**



SAC CONFERENCE 2021

Envisioning the Future of Anti-Violence Work:
Intersectionality and Imagination as a Way Forward

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021



Farah Tanis

Co-Founder, Executive Director
Black Women's Blueprint

[Click here for more information on Farah!](#)

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With #TeamTDOC!**

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**SAVE THE
DATE**

"Prevention is our Super Power"

**RAPE PREVENTION
EDUCATION
INSTITUTE**

SUPER

**MAY 24, 2021 AND
MAY 25, 2021
9:00 AM TO 4:30 PM
CDT**

POP!

Virtual Event- Registration coming
Soon



WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Criminal Injuries Compensation: Corvel Corporation 866.960.6039



Tennessee Department of Correction

Victim Services Division

5th Floor Rachel Jackson Building

320 6th Avenue North

Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: 615-253-8145

Fax: 615-741-1055

Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

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Betsy Fletcher

Executive Secretary

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